IN THE CLAIMS:

1.   (Currently amended) A method for managing the provisioning of a plurality of resources in a data processing system, said plurality of resources being a plurality of different types, said method comprising the steps of:

defining a plurality of provisioning states for each one of said plurality of different types of resources;

defining relationships among said plurality of provisioning states, said relationships describing valid transitions from ones of said plurality of <u>provisioning</u> states to other ones of said plurality of <u>provisioning</u> states; and

defining at least one task that is associated with each one of said valid transitions<u>,</u> <u>wherein defining at least one task that is associated with each one of said valid transitions,</u> <u>comprises:</u>

<u>specifying a plurality of tasks for each one of said valid transitions;</u>

<u>specifying a sequence for completion for said plurality of tasks for each one of</u> <u>said valid transitions, said plurality of tasks being required to be completed in said</u> <u>sequence in order to complete each one of said valid transitions; and</u>

<u>providing said plurality of tasks in said sequence as a module that will complete</u> <u>one of said valid transitions when said module is executed; and</u>

<u>utilizing said module to complete said one of said valid transitions for each one of</u> <u>said plurality of different types of resources, wherein the same module is used regardless of</u> <u>which resource type is being transitioned.</u>

2-10.   (Canceled)

11.   (Currently amended) A data processing system for managing the provisioning of a plurality of resources, said plurality of resources being a plurality of different types, comprising:

<u>means for defining</u> a plurality of provisioning states ~~defined~~ for each one of said plurality of different types of resources;

means for defining relationships ~~defined~~ among said plurality of provisioning states, said relationships describing valid transitions from ones of said plurality of provisioning states to other ones of said plurality of provisioning states; and

means for defining at least one task ~~defined~~ that is associated with each one of said valid transitions wherein the means for defining at least one task that is associated with each one of said valid transitions, comprises:

means for specifying a plurality of tasks for each one of said valid transitions;

means for specifying a sequence for completion for said plurality of tasks for each one of said valid transitions, said plurality of tasks being required to be completed in said sequence in order to complete each one of said valid transitions; and

means for providing said plurality of tasks in said sequence as a module that will complete one of said valid transitions when said module is executed; and

means for utilizing said module to complete said one of said valid transitions for each one of said plurality of different types of resources, wherein the same module is used regardless of which resource type is being transitioned.

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12-19. (Canceled)

20.   (Currently amended) A computer program product for managing the provisioning of a plurality of resources in a data processing system, said plurality of resources being a plurality of different types, said product comprising:

instruction means for defining a plurality of provisioning states for each one of said plurality of different types of resources;

instruction means for defining relationships among said plurality of provisioning states, said relationships describing valid transitions from ones of said plurality of provisioning states to other ones of said plurality of provisioning states; and

instruction means for defining at least one task that is associated with each one of said valid transitions, wherein said instruction means for defining at least one task that is associated with each one of said valid transitions, comprises:

instruction means for specifying a plurality of tasks for each one of said valid transitions;

instruction means for specifying a sequence for completion for said plurality of tasks for each one of said valid transitions, said plurality of tasks being required to be completed in said sequence in order to complete each one of said valid transitions; and

instruction means for providing said plurality of tasks in said sequence as a module that will complete one of said valid transitions when said module is executed; and

instruction means for utilizing said module to complete said one of said valid transitions for each one of said plurality of different types of resources, wherein the same module is used regardless of which resource type is being transitioned.

21-27. (Canceled)